

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 L-03 MC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 AS-01

RSR-01 /080 W

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P R 091215Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5538

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG

USS C F ADAMS

RUQBSII USS JONAS INGRAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1088

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MA

SUBJ: FUELING STOPS AT DIEGO-SUAREZ

REFS: A) COMIDEASTFOR 6631, P 280715Z JUL 73

B) COMIDEASTFOR 791, R 041125Z AUG 73

1. NOW THAT MALAGASY FONMIN RATSIRAKA HAS RETURNED FROM VISIT TO US, I TOOK UP WITH HIM, AUG 9, PROPOSED BRIEF REFUELING STOPS AT DIEGO-SUAREZ BY JONAS INGRAM ON SEPT 3 AND C. F. ADAMS ON SEPT 14.

2. HIS INITIAL REACTION WAS THAT THESE DATES TO CLOSE TO SEPT 1 DEADLINE FOR WITHDRAWAL MOST FRENCH FORCES FROM DIEGO-SUAREZ TO BE ACCEPTABLE POLITICALLY. HE PROPOSED TAMATAVE AS ALTERNATIVE FOR REFUELING. HE ALSO MADE POINT THAT PAYMENT FOR REFUELING AT DIEGO-SUAREZ STILL GOES TO FRENCH BUT WOULD BE MADE TO MALAGSY IF DONE AT TAMATAVE.

3. I SAID COMIDEASTFOR HAD ORIGINALLY CONSIDERED PGOPOSING FOUR-SHIP TURNOVER AT DIEGO-SUAREZ FOR EARLY SEPT, BUT THIS SHIFTED
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TO PORT LOUIS BECAUSE OF OUR BELIEF THAT FOR POLITICAL REASONS

GOMR WOULD NOT WANT REGULAR VISIT FOR SEVERAL DAYS OF FOUR SHIPS TO DIEGO-SUAREZ AT THIS JUNCTURE. I PROCEEDED TO STATE THAT WE HAD HOPED, HOWEVER, THAT BRIEF FUELING STOPS AT DIEGO-SUAREZ WOULD NOT RAISE SAME PROBLEMS FOR GOMR. I EXPLAINED WHY REFUELING AT DIEGO-SUAREZ IS TECHNICALLY EASIER THAN AT TAMATAVE.

4. HE THEN ASKED WHETHER BOTH VESSELS COULD NOT BE REFUELED ON SAME DATE AT DIEGO-SUAREZ. I EXPLAINED THIS DOES NOT APPEAR POSSIBLE BECAUSE INGRAM IS ON WAY OUT OF INDIAN OCEAN AND ADAMS JUST COMING IN.

5. HE FINALLY SAID HE WOULD ASK "GENERAL STAFF" (BY THAT I THINK HE MEANS DIRECTOR GEN OF GOVT AND PERHAPS HEAD OF GOVT GEN GRQJA ANANTSOA, SINCE DEF DEPT IS RUN OUT OF HEAD OF GOVT'S OFFICE) WHETHER IT WOULD AGREE TO SEPT 3 VISIT OF INGRAM. HE MAINTAINED SEPT 14 FUELING STOP OF ADAMS NOT NECESSARY BECAUSE IT COULD GO FROM PORT LOUIS TO DJIBOUTI WITHOUT REFUELING. SINCE I ASSUME RATSIRAKA, AS NAVAL OFFICER, KNOWS WHAT HE IS TALKING ABOUT, I DID NOT ARGUE THAT POINT.

6. HE PROMISED SUPPLY ANSWER ON INGRAM SEPT 3 FUELING STOP AT DIEGO-SUAREZ. AS FOR ADAMS, I WOULD SUGGEST IT SCHEDULE REFUELING AT TAMATAVE IF IT NEEDS TO JG SO BETWEEN PORT LOUIS AND DJIBOUTI.
MENDENHALL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TANANA01088
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MENDENHALL
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TANANARIVE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730847/aaaabida.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) COMIDEASTFOR 6631, P 280715Z JUL, 73
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <30-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FUELING STOPS AT DIEGO-SUAREZ
TAGS: MARR, MA
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005